

August 14, 2003

Dear Shoreline Administrator:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of new funding available for local governments adopting new Shoreline Master Programs (SMPs). Governor Locke recently signed into law Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5404, which provides \$2 million for SMPs through Ecology-administered grants, and Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 6012 establishing a new mandatory SMP adoption and update schedule.

The first legislatively designated jurisdictions that must develop a new SMP by December 1, 2005 are Bellingham, Port Townsend, Snohomish County and Whatcom County (Everett, also identified as a 2005 adopter, has already updated their SMP). ESHB 6012 also encourages other jurisdictions to begin the process of updating their SMP early and makes them eligible to receive grants subject to available funding.

Our first priority is to ensure that the 2005 adopters receive funding that is “reasonable and adequate to accomplish the costs of developing and amending (their) shoreline master programs...” as prescribed in ESHB 6012. We are currently working with these jurisdictions to develop grant agreements for their SMP updates and expect to have agreements in place by September 15, 2003. All remaining funds will be distributed through a competitive grants process to other jurisdictions volunteering to update their SMP ahead of schedule. We are committed to making our final decisions as quickly as possible and will work with grant recipients to have agreements in place by October 1, 2003.

At this time, we estimate that \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 will be available for jurisdictions volunteering to update early. There is no local match requirement, no cap on the grant amount (only the “reasonable and adequate” requirement) and applicants need apply only once for the two years of funding provided by the Legislature. Most jurisdictions are required to complete their SMP update within two years of the date their grant is approved by Ecology (see RCW 90.58.080 as amended by Substitute Senate Bill 6012, Section 2). **Applications are due September 15, 2003.**

If you are interested in applying for funding, an application is available on our Shoreline Master Program Guidelines web site at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/SMA/guidelines/index.html. This site also provides information on the status of the guidelines rule adoption, links to the bills noted above, a list of Ecology staff contacts, and more. Please contact your regional Ecology shoreline planner if you have questions: Northwest Region, Alice Schisel (425) 649-4309;

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Southwest Region, Randy Davis ((360) 407-0242; and Eastern and Central Region, Doug Pineo (509) 329-3416. You can also contact Peter Skowlund in our Headquarters Office at (360) 407-6522.

Finally, we are looking for volunteers to participate on our grants evaluation team and help us select final grant recipients. If your jurisdiction is not applying for funds and you would be willing to review applications and participate in a half-day evaluation team meeting in late September, please contact Peter Skowlund at the number above. We would appreciate your support in this process.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordon White".

Gordon White
Program Manager
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program